

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 BNDE-00 IGA-02 SS-14

DODE-00 H-02 AGR-20 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01

L-03 PRS-01 /118 W

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R 291145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2578

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2081

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN- AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 49755; (B) KABUL 1488; (C) KABUL 1434; (D)
KABUL 1300; (E) STATE 230879

1. EMBASSY AGREES THAT TIME REMAINS TO FLESH OUT PROPOSALS SINCE
TIMING UN/ RGA NEGOTIATIONS HAS SLIPPED. OUR PROPOSALS WERE
INITIALLY PRESENTED IN OUTLINE FORM TO PERMIT SUBSEQUENT E-
LABORATION AS ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE. WE URGE NEA INTER-
AGENCY WORKING GROUP ADOPT POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS AP-
PROACH, REFLECTIVE OF WASHINGTON VIEWS EXPRESSED REF E
WHICH URGED US TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS EVEN IN FACE
WELL- KNOWN LACK ADEQUATE DATA. BELIEVE PROPOSALS SPELLED OUT
REFS B, C AND D ARE RESPONSIVE, PROVIDE GOOD WORKING PROGRAM,
AND PROVIDE BASIS FOR FURTHER COLLECTION AND COLLATION DATA
WHICH COULD CAUSE ALTERATIONS.

2. WE APPRECIATE WORKING GROUP' S CONCURRENCE THAT UN SHOULD
TAKE LEAD IN ANY NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY
RECOMMENDED THIS. BUT WE ALSO KNOW UN WILL NOT SUCCEED
IN AFGHANISTAN UNLESS US PLAYS FIRM, POSITIVE ROLE UNMISTAKABLY
SUPPORTING UN. PROPOSALS THUS FAR PRESENTED FULLY REFLECTIVE
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THIS VIEW, ESPECIALLY AS CONCERNS AMOUNTS MONEY PROPOSED. OUR POSITION IS, AND HAS BEEN THAT US DELEGATES TO SCHURMANN' S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD BE FULLY AUTHORIZED TO COMMIT US TO LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE IN SPECIFIC FIELDS AS PREVIOUSLY WORKED OUT BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES. OTHERWISE WE RISK LONG DRAWN OUT PROCEDURES, MANEUVERINGS AND LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL VITIATE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE NOW PREVALENT IN AFGHANISTAN. IF OTHER DONORS CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR PORTION SUGGESTED 30 PERCENT US BILATERAL SHARE, WE OF COURSE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

3. HAVING SAID ABOVE, WE WELCOME CHANCE ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS BY WORKING GROUP. WE ASSUME OUR GOALS ARE SAME; BUT WE REMIND WORKING GROUP THAT DATA BASE IS SKIMPY. GENERAL COMMENTS ON REF (A) ARE CONTAINED THIS MESSAGE. NEXT TWO SUCCEEDING CABLES RESPOND TO OTHER PARTS OF REF A (DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS AND ANALYSIS OF UN/ FAO REPORT). SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL RESPOND TO ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS IN PARAS 3, 4 AND 5 OF REF (A) . IF FURTHER QUESTIONS ARISE, WE SUGGEST WORKING GROUP AUTHORIZE KEY MEMBERS EMBASSY' S NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE RETURN WASHINGTON FOR EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE AND JOINT REVIEW AFGHAN PROGRAM WITH WORKING GROUP.

4. U. S. REPRESENTATIVES TO COORDINATING COMMITTEE NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED IN MAY IN GENEVA SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COMMENT ON BROAD CONCEPT AS WELL AS SPECIFIC DETAILS PROPOSED IN UN REPORT. AS WE HAVE STRESSED, WE DO NOT VIEW CURRENT UN PROPOSAL AS FINAL MASTER PLAN , BUT RATHER GENERAL FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH INTERESTED FOREIGN DONORS (COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES) WILL DEVELOP SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES UNDER UN AEGIS WHEN REPORT FINALIZED. US MUST BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING BY PERSONS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR BOTH WITH WASHINGTON AGENCY ATTITUDES AND WITH UN REPORT AND AFGHAN NARCOTICS SCENE-- ESPECIALLY PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING AND ENFORCEMENT REALITIES.

5. RGA IS SHORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL TALENT AS WELL AS FINANCIAL RESOURCES. UNLESS UN PROGRAM DEVELOPS CAREFULLY DEFINED TARGETS WITH REALISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO OCCUR IN SPECIFIC TIMEFRAMES, THERE IS GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES WILL SUFFER. POTENTIAL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DISRUPTION IS PRESENT, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF TIMETABLE. PROGRAMMING AND SPECIFIC PROJECT DESIGNS WILL BE AN EXTREMELY CRITICAL FACTOR IN ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THIS PROGRAM.

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6. CONCERN OF WORKING GROUP (PARA EIGHT, REF A) WITH RGA

CAPACITY HANDLE COMPLICATED, MULTI- FACETED PROGRAM IS CERTAINLY VALID. RGA WILLING; BUT ASSISTANCE IN COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF OVERALL EFFORT ESSENTIAL. RGA DOES NOT HAVE CAPABILITY PERFORM THIS TYPE OPERATION BY ITSELF. FOR BEST RESULTS, RESIDENT UN LEADER WOULD HAVE TO PULL PROGRAM TOGETHER AND BE WATCHDOG ENTIRE OPERATION. IN OUR OPINION, THIS IS NO REASON TO BACK OFF. WE HAVE ALWAYS REALIZED JOB WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND ARDUOUS. BUT WE FIRMLY BELIEVE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS WORKABLE AND HAS REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS OVER TIME.

7. WE EARLIER MADE CLEAR WE NOT THINKING OF ONLY THREE- YEAR PROGRAM, SINCE WE SEE NO CHANCE OF ACHIEVING ALL GOALS THIS TIME PERIOD. WE BELIEVE OUR TIMING PROPOSED IS REALISTIC, BUT DELAYS NOW, AND IN FUTURE, CAN PROLONG COMPLETION INDIVIDUAL SEGMENTS OF PROGRAM. WE CAN BE NO MORE SUCCESSFUL IN PREDICTING SUCCESS IN STOPPING FLOW OF OPIUM FROM AFGHANISTAN THAN USG CAN BE IN PREDICTING THAT DOMESTIC US MEASUR
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL02081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimcy.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 49755, 73 KABUL 1488, 73 KABUL 1434, 73 KABUL 1300, 73 STATE 230879
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <03-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980108
Subject: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN- AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: SNAR, AF
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005